

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## Co-Chairs:

Hon. Bradley Erck  
Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

## Memorandum

## Members:

James Allen  
Robert Blanchard  
Daniel Boody  
Hon. Clyde Burmaster  
Hon. Elise Cusack  
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Kevin Schuler  
John Simon  
Hector Titus  
Peter Wendel

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: ENRP Administrator Tod A. Kniazuk**

**Re: August & September 2002 meetings**

**Date: October 4, 2002**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Tourism & Culture Subcommittee met August 5, 2002 at the Niagara Falls CVB, and September 25, 2002 at the NFTA. Present for the August meeting were subcommittee members Blanchard, Dale, Davignon, Geiger (proxy), and Rydelek (proxy). Present for the September meeting were subcommittee members Keyes and Geiger, as well as Charlene Ritter-Lester from Erie County Environment & Planning, Robert Gower from the NFTA, and David Lacki from the Buffalo-Niagara CVB.

## Buffalo-Niagara Tourist Express:

While the Tourist Express was scheduled to take a one-year hiatus and begin operations in 2003, and indeed much of August's meeting was spent in the planning of the Express, at the September meeting the group decided that it would be best to postpone the Express yet again, with a new start date of Summer, 2004. Funding for 2003 was applied for to Erie County by the BNCVB, but was eventually listed as a low priority due to next year's designation as an I Love NY summer festival site. No direct funding comes from the state for this designation, so it will be up to the CVB to find funds for the "One Summer Long Sensation" idea. In addition, Niagara County would be expected to pick up some of the tab for the Express, something that could not now be committed to due to the impending merger of the CVB and the Niagara County Department of Tourism.

So, while everyone involved believes the Tourist Express should ride again, the revised timetable is to begin planning in early 2003, with the route beginning again in 2004. **The Tourism & Culture Subcommittee is seeking approval to begin planning in early 2003 for the 2004 Buffalo-Niagara Tourist Express.**

## Ad Hoc:

Michael Casale  
Hon. Albert DeBenedetti  
Richard Geiger  
Luke Rich  
Stan Rydelek  
John Sheffer, II

## Administrator:

Tod A. Kniazuk

### Tourist Signage

The subcommittee, with ENRP approval, is pursuing the signage issue. The group is collecting sign locations from the CVBs and other interested parties, and will then compile a list to take to the Western New York delegation of the New York State Legislature, NYSDOT, and other relevant parties. We are not only looking at signs on the major highways, but also at signs on the routes from the highways to the attractions. This work will be completed soon.

### Other Issues

Other issues discussed included the new Niagara County tourist bureau, the I Love NY One Summer Long Sensation program, the Art on Wheels program, and the current state of the tourism industry.

### Note

Special thanks to our former Subcommittee Chair, John Greenan, as he leaves the Erie County Legislature and the ENRP to take the position of Personnel Director for Erie County.